

2004 Report of Accomplishments

Mason Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 - Summary

- Assisted over 85 landowners.
- Provided more than \$21,000 in cost-share funds to 9 landowners.
- Constructed over 7,500 feet of riparian fencing.
- Commenced an inventory of fish barriers WRIA 22.
- Developed 51 farm and technical assistance plans.
- Responded to 15 Mason County referrals.
- Sponsored construction of 2 bridges.



Mission of the Mason Conservation District

- The District desires to make Mason County a better place to live by promoting the wise use and management of all natural resources. We will concentrate on all negative environmental abuse affecting Mason County's air, soil, water, wildlife, and recreation. The District will work toward establishing stewardship practices designed to provide food, clean water, timber, fiber, recreation, and open space needs for ourselves and future generations.

Water Quality Implementation

- Assisted 22 landowners with technical support.
- 6 landowners were awarded cost share funds totaling approximately \$5,000.
- Over 1,800 feet of riparian fencing was constructed along with other BMPs.

Basic Funding

- MCD basic funding supports maintenance of the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail as an educational venue for both students and the community. Funds are also used to support activities of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and to provide both training and administrative support for District field technicians.

Local Funding

- MCD was successful in securing a special assessment starting in calendar year 2003. Due to ongoing litigation, technical assistance and referral response programs supported by these funds have not been initiated.

Puget Sound/Water Quality

- Used to support GIS mapping efforts by the MCD.
- GIS layers developed by the MCD have served all of our current grants.
- Five landowners have been assisted utilizing funding from this grant.
- Three farm plans and a 200- foot stream enhancement project have been completed.

Professional Engineering

- Provided engineering planning, design, and technical assistance to a large landowner in the Skokomish River Valley.
- Provided engineering planning to another large landowner in the Skokomish Valley to reduce flood damage and develop a nutrient management plan to protect the Skokomish River and Hood Canal from surface water contamination by agricultural wastes.
- Provided engineering planning, design and permitting assistance to 5 landowners to stabilize eroding stream banks with bioengineering and engineered logjam techniques.
- Provided engineering planning and designs to the South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group for replacement of 5 fish barriers with bridges or stream-simulation culverts.

- Provided engineering planning and designs to the Allyn Salmon Enhancement Group for the removal of a dike from the intertidal area of Sherwood Creek in Case Inlet.
- Provided engineering consultation to assist a landowner in stabilizing surface erosion and restoring slope stability on a vertical bluff overlooking Case Inlet.
- Provided engineering consultation and design to the Skokomish Indian Tribe for the removal of saltwater dikes and restoration of over 140 acres of intertidal wetland at the mouth of the Skokomish River.
- Providing engineering consultation to Mason County and the Skokomish Tribe to explore the formation of the Skokomish River Restoration Council. Initial meetings have gone well, and have focused on studying other successful restoration efforts in rivers with salt-water estuaries. Mason County has also asked the Conservation District to provide engineering consultation, working with WSDOT, for the replacement of the Purdy Creek Bridge on US Highway 101 in the Skokomish Valley.
- Provided engineering consultation and design to another engineer preparing a Wetland Reserve Program grant application for the restoration of a stream and saltwater estuary.
- Designed animal containment/waste storage structures for two landowners.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Completed maintenance program on 6 riparian planting projects.
 - Currently a total of 6 projects including 39 acres and 1.6 miles of riparian buffer.
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Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- The MCD serves as the Lead Entity for WRIA 14.
 - Completed the WRIA 14 Salmon Habitat Recovery Strategy, combining biological needs with community values to identify and prioritize habitat projects for WRIA 14.
 - Produced the South Sound Salmon Guide as an environmental education aid for the community, depicting salmonid species present, their lifecycle and where they can be viewed.
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Small Farm Programs

- Cooperators in the MCD are almost exclusively small farmers, so almost all assistance to agricultural producers is in the small farm category.
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Community Collaboration & Coordination

- MCD works closely with the Mason County Water Conservancy Board, Green Diamond Resource Company, Shelton Rotary, UW Sea Grant, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Squaxin Island Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, WSU Cooperative Extension Service, Mason County and the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium.
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Information & Education

- MCD sponsored or participated in: Horses for Clean Water; Realtor Continuing Education; Chehalis Student Congress; Forest Festival Field Day; WSU workshop; Oysterfest and Oysterfest Kid's Day; Outdoor School; Environmental Explorations; 4-H Forestry Leadership; 4-H Camp; Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail; Kids With Conservation Knowledge; Choice and Shelton High Schools.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

Kennedy
Creek
Salmon
Trail

